

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the priority document FR 01/16950 filed December 27, 2001, was duly received by the International Bureau on March 7, 2003, as indicated in the Form PCT/IB/304 submitted June 28, 2004 according to the PAIR records. Confirmation of receipt of the priority document from the International Bureau is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

Claims 19, 21, 23-36 and 39 are pending. By this amendment, Claims 19, 33, and 39 have been amended to more particularly recite subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention, as discussed in detail below. Claims 1-18, 20, 22, 37-38, and 40 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23 and 33-36 have also been amended for consistency.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 19, 21, 23-36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) over Hopkins.

Without acceding to the rejection, Claims 19, 33 and 39 have been amended to recite that the group signature (S) with the private key (SK) common to all group members uses, *inter alia*, an encrypted text (C) produced using personalized data of an individual member (M) only. Support is provided at, for example, page 1, lines 9-13; and page 13, lines 22-24 of Applicants' disclosure.

It is apparent that the applied reference, Hopkins, does not teach or suggest at least this feature. For example, Hopkins teaches generating a group digital signature S that requires generating partial signatures for each of the individual members of the group in accordance with an associated individual cryptosystem (*See* Hopkins, col.

11, lines 40-55), followed by the combining of the partial signatures in a combining facility. Hopkins, col. 13, lines 34-35. Thus, in Hopkins the group digital signature S uses as many encrypted texts as there are partial signatures. Additionally, each partial signature is associated with the personalized data of the respective member, so that the group signature S uses encrypted texts produced by using the personalized data of all members of the group. Therefore, it is apparent that Hopkins fails to teach an encrypted text produced using the personalized data of an individual member (M) only, as recited in independent Claim 19.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 distinguishes patentably from the applied reference.

Claims 33 and 39 also recite, *inter alia*, producing an encrypted text (C) using personalized data of an individual member (M) only.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 33 and 39 also distinguish patentably from the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 19.

The dependent Claims 21, 23-32, and 34-36 are also believed to be patentable based on their dependence from Claims 19 and 33, as well as due to the additional features recited in Claims 21, 23-32, and 34-36.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2678-9156US01) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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